

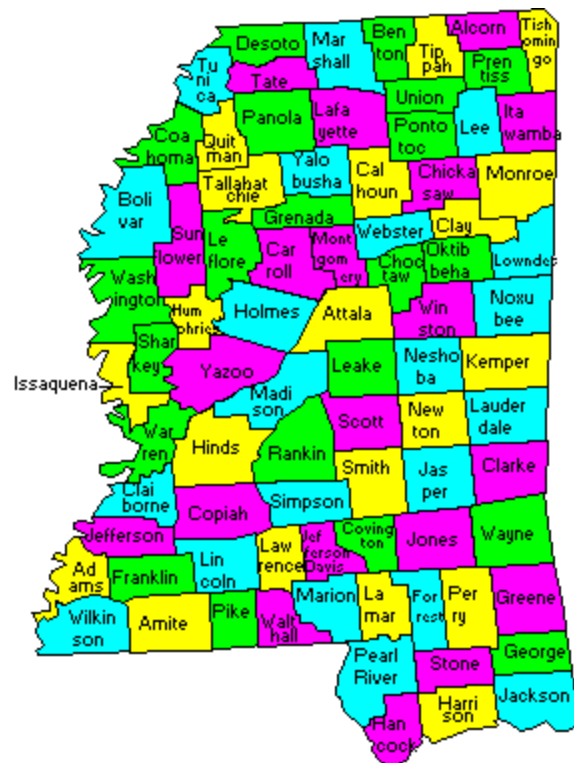
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Mississippi

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Mississippi

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,573,216 (1990 census), 2,752,000 (1998 estimate)
- Gender: 47.8% male, 52.2% female
- Age: 29.1% under 18 years old, 12.4% 65 years old and over
- Race/Ethnicity: 63.5% white; 35.6% African American; 0.3% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 0.5% Asian or Pacific Islander; 0.6% of Hispanic Origin
- Percent of Population Below Poverty Level: 25.7%

Politics²

- Governor: Ronnie Musgrove
- Lt. Governor: Amy Tuck
- Attorney General: Mike Moore
- Secretary of State: Eric Clark
- Senate Members: Thad Cochran (R), Trent Lott (R)
- House Members: Roger Wicker (R), Bennie Thompson (D), Charles Pickering (R), Ronnie Shows (D), Gene Taylor (D)
- Gulf Coast HIDTA Director: David Knight

Programs/Initiatives

- The Gulf Coast HIDTA³
Designated in 1996, this HIDTA includes agencies from the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. This area is a gateway for illicit drugs through seven deep-water ports, vast coastal waterways and an extensive system of commercial and private airports. The region's central location makes it attractive for traffickers with bases of operations on either the East or West Coasts of the United States. Traffickers move imported powder cocaine to locations such as Birmingham, Alabama or Jackson, Mississippi and then convert it to crack cocaine. The Gulf Coast HIDTA includes the Mississippi counties of Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, and Jackson.
- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities grantee awarded funding by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁴
 - \$100,000 to the Shady Grove M.B. Church of Greenville
 - This church developed the "I Challenge You" program. This program addresses the impact of prevention education on knowledge and attitudes about alcohol and drug consumption, incidence of alcohol and drug use, and incidence of violence among high-risk youth age 12-19. This program serves teens residing in Bolivar, Humphrey, and Washington counties in the Mississippi Delta region.
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁵
 - Greenville/Metcalf: Greenville was selected as a Weed and Seed site because of the large number of major Federal drug cases, "Kingpin" cases, and basic high crime rate. The Amy Covington Area was chosen as the Target Area because of

its disproportionate number of violent and property crimes for the neighborhood. The Town of Metcalfe was also chosen to participate in this Weed and Seed effort. 52.45% of the Greenville population lives below the poverty level, and 37.85% of the Metcalfe population is below this level.

- Jackson: The Target Area for this Weed and Seed site is located in the central west area of the city. It is comprised of 5 communities: Dalton-Deer Park; Olin Park; Poindexter Park; University Park; and Washington Addition. This Target Area is also found within the City of Jackson's Enterprise Community. This is a Federal community revitalization project through HUD.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime⁶

- There were a total of 7,962 drug arrests in Mississippi during 1998, of these 790 involved juvenile offenders.

Arrests in Mississippi, 1998

| Offense | Under 18 | Total All Ages |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter | 9 | 130 |
| Forcible Rape | 30 | 191 |
| Robbery | 132 | 581 |
| Aggravated Assault | 93 | 1,322 |
| Burglary | 661 | 2,212 |
| Larceny-Theft | 1,765 | 7,240 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 186 | 678 |
| Arson | 101 | 162 |
| Drug Abuse Violations | 790 | 7,962 |
| Driving Under the Influence | 154 | 9,831 |
| Liquor Laws | 307 | 2,584 |
| Drunkenness | 114 | 5,009 |

Drugs⁷

- Mississippi's population is mostly located in 14 of the states 82 counties, these basic rural demographics along with the states topographic features make it conducive to drug trafficking. Illegal drugs are smuggled into Mississippi by water, overland, and through air. Mississippi has 75 miles of coastline along the Gulf of Mexico, which include a number of remote areas with navigable inland waterways used by drug traffickers. However, the interstate highway system in Mississippi poses a greater drug smuggling threat. I-10 passes along the Gulf Coast and makes an excellent route for drug traffickers going east. I-20 is used by traffickers from the southwest border to reach the east. I-59 connects New Orleans and Birmingham. I-55 runs north and south and through Memphis, St. Louis, and Chicago.
- Most of the drugs in Mississippi are imported rather than produced in the state. Cocaine (especially crack cocaine) and marijuana are the most prevalent drugs in the state. There has also been a recent increase in amphetamines, LSD, and other hallucinogens.

- A rise in gangs, such as the Crips and the Bloods, has been apparent in areas such as Gulfport, Mississippi. These gangs are heavily involved with the crack cocaine market especially in low-income housing developments.

Juveniles

- A survey of Mississippi high school students in 1999 revealed that 36.3% of those surveyed had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.⁸

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Mississippi, 1999

| Drug & Frequency | Female | Male | Total |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Lifetime Marijuana Use | 32.2 | 40.3 | 36.3 |
| Current Marijuana Use | 16.3 | 21.6 | 18.9 |
| Lifetime Cocaine Use | 5.3 | 6.1 | 5.7 |
| Current Cocaine Use | 1.4 | 3.0 | 2.1 |
| Lifetime Inhalant Use | 12.7 | 12.3 | 12.6 |
| Current Inhalant Use | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| Lifetime Heroin Use | 1.3 | 2.9 | 2.1 |
| Lifetime Methamphetamine Use | 5.4 | 7.4 | 6.3 |
| Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use | 2.6 | 6.4 | 4.4 |
| Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use | 1.0 | 2.7 | 1.8 |
| Tried Marijuana Before Age 13 | 4.5 | 12.2 | 8.3 |

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 1998 there were 8,221 full-time law enforcement employees in Mississippi. 5,314 of these employees were officers and the remainder, 2,907, were civilians.⁹
- Gulf Coast HIDTA Initiatives in Mississippi:¹⁰
 - Tri-County Major Investigations Team: targets major drug trafficking organizations operating in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. This initiative also conducts post-seizure analysis of highway interdiction stops.
 - Mississippi Operations Center: targets major drug trafficking/money laundering organizations operating in the Jackson area. This initiative also targets local drug trafficking organizations and coordinates highway interdiction efforts.

Courts

- In FY 1998 there were a total of 381 Federal defendants in Mississippi. 40.9% of them were charged with a drug-related offense. The most common drug was crack cocaine (64.1%) followed by powder cocaine (21.1%), marijuana (10.2%) and methamphetamine (4.4%).¹¹
- As of March 31, 2000 there were two drug courts in Mississippi (Ridgeland, Madison County and Macomb, Pike County). Two additional drug courts were being planned at this time (Gulfport, Harrison County and Jackson, Hinds County).¹²

Trafficking and Seizures

- During 1998 the State of Mississippi eradicated 3,362 marijuana plants under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.¹³

Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Mississippi, 1998

| Domestic Cannabis Eradication Program | |
|--|-----------|
| OUTDOOR | |
| Eradicated Plots | 117 |
| Cultivated Plants Eradicated | 3,323 |
| Ditchweed Eradicated | 0 |
| INDOOR | |
| Grows Seized | 2 |
| Plants Eradicated | 39 |
| TOTAL | |
| Plants Eradicated | 3,362 |
| Number of Arrests | 473 |
| Weapons Seized | 73 |
| Assets Seized | \$343,501 |

Corrections

- At midyear 1999 (June 30), there were 17,858 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Mississippi. This represents a 7.1% increase in population since December 31, 1998.¹⁴
- From midyear 1998 to midyear 1999, there was an 11.8% increase in population. At midyear 1998, the number of inmates under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Mississippi totaled 15,967.¹⁵
- The Mississippi Department of Corrections randomly tests 15% of its prisoner population every month and also tests inmates participating in drug treatment programs twice a month. There were a total of 315 inmates in drug treatment programs in January of 1997. In 1996 there were a total of 4,004 inmate drug tests completed at the cost of \$3.50 a test. Three drug dogs were used in Mississippi prisons to help eliminate illegal drugs.¹⁶
- At the beginning of 1998 (January 1), there were 10,997 adults on probation in Mississippi. At the end of the year (December 31), this amount had increased 4.8% to 11,530.¹⁷
- There were 1,378 adults on parole at the beginning of 1998. At the end of the year, there were 1,489 (an 8.1% increase).¹⁸

Treatment¹⁹

- In October of 1997 there were a total of 5,334 clients seeking treatment for alcohol or drug abuse problems in the State of Mississippi. Of all the clients most (47.2%) were being treated for both alcohol and drugs, followed by alcohol only (26.8%), and drugs only (26.1%).

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/>
- ² Mississippi State Web sites: <http://www.state.ms.us/>
- ³ HIDTA Web site, Gulf Coast HIDTA section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>
- ⁴ Drug-Free Communities Web site: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/ms.html>
- ⁵ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1998: Uniform Crime Report*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr>
- ⁷ State of Mississippi, *1997 Statewide Strategy and Application*, January 1997
- ⁸ Center for Disease Control, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1999*, June 2000
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- ¹¹ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/jp1998.htm>
- ¹² OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000
- ¹³ Drug Enforcement Administration, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Statistical Report, 1998*, March 1999
- ¹⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, April 2000: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pjim99.pdf>
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Corrections Program Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Offenders*, October 1998
- ¹⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998*, August 1999: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus98.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Uniform Facility Data Sets (UFDS) 1997 - Data on Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities*, <ftp://ftp.samhsa.gov/pub/ufds/ufdsrpt97.pdf>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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